DAILY 49ER

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

GOV. JERRY BROWN
Bills recently signed by the governor are a step forward
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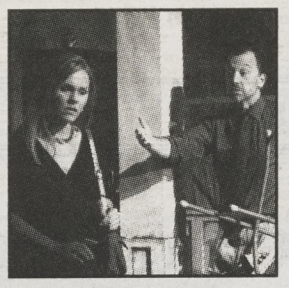

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Vol. LIX, Issue 644 www.Daily49er.com Tuesday, October 8, 2013

Two cars stolen on campus recovered

The cars were found "partially stripped" by the Los Angeles Police Department.

By Crystal Niebla
Staff Writer

Two cars that were stolen on the first day of fall semester have since been recovered by the Los Angeles Police Department, according to University Police Lt. Richard Goodwin.

The cars, a black 1998 Honda Civic and a black 2000 Honda Civic, were both found "partially stripped," with the interior or seats removed, Goodwin said. He said he does not know where the LAPD recovered the cars. The LAPD was, however, able to recover the cars within the same week they were stolen, Goodwin said. The LAPD then contacted University Police to inform them that the cars had been found, and the owners of the recovered vehicles were notified immediately, he said.

According to a press release from University Police, which was released during the first week of the semester, suspects seemed to have targeted cars such as the Honda Civic and Nissan 300 between the years of 1998 and 2000. According to Goodwin, 13 motor vehicle thefts have been reported since January. In 2012, there were eight motor vehicle thefts on campus, compared to only five in 2011, according to the CLEARY report on the University Police website.

Anyone who has seen any suspicious activity should contact University Police at (562) 985-4101.

Todd Johnson | Daily 49er

In full swing
Junior kinesiology major Golden Williams hits the ball during an intramural softball game on Monday.

National Coming Out Week to be celebrated with OutList

Names from the list will be displayed throughout campus.

By Natasha Hunkins and Alex Sack
Staff Writers

In celebration of National Coming Out Week, several Cal State Long Beach organizations will place banners and posters across campus displaying the names of those who have signed this year's OutList.

According to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Student Resource Center on campus, the OutList will enable members of the campus community, both past and present, to come out as LGBT individuals. It will also enable heterosexual individuals to come out as supporters of the LGBT community.

The organizations behind this week's series of events include the Gay Straight Alliance, the LGBT Student Resource Center and Student Life and Development.

National Coming Out Week has broadened this year at CSULB with the OutList's signage being displayed more publicly on campus. In past years, the names from the OutList were published only in the University Student Union, GSA President Daniel Luna said.

"The general sense of [National] Coming Out Week is that we are here to promote our community that we have, establish our community and really celebrate [National] Coming Out Day on Friday," Luna said.

This year's National Coming Out Day will mark the event's 25th anniversary.

"This year we have an active membership with GSA and Delta Lambda Phi, the gay-bisexual progressive fraternity on campus, and the [LGBT] Resource Center, and we are all collaborating together to make this week really something big in our own individual ways," he said.

In addition to the OutList, Luna said there will be a parachute social, which involves a large tarp and a group of people, on Tuesday "to bring communities together without labels and without obligations." A parachute social was held on Monday as well.

Luna said the event on Tuesday will also include a photo shoot that "is more for intersectionality."

"We don't necessarily come out as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or whatever, but rather as feminists, as chefs, as a mother, as whatever you want," Luna said.

On Wednesday, the organizations will host an open mic night to allow the community to speak out, and on Thursday there will be a screening of "Too Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything!

See *OutList*, Page 2

Mary Anne Rose

CSULB staff member rebuilds homes in Long Beach

By Kealie Mardell
Staff Writer

For Cal State Long Beach's Mary Anne Rose, organizing home demolitions is just part of a day at the office.

Rose, director of graduate studies in the College of Education, works as president of the Board of Directors for Rebuilding Together Long Beach (RTLB). Through RTLB, community volunteers rebuild homes for low-income families, the elderly and those with disabilities, according to Teresa Griffith, vice president of RTLB.

In her position as president of the Board of Directors, Rose oversees the workday events and annual budget of the organization alongside her responsibilities at CSULB.

"For me it comes very easily to balance my time, because I love both," she said.

Since Rose became President in 2010, the number of homes repaired annually has more than doubled. Under Rose's leadership, RTLB has

See *Rose*, Page 3

CSULB offers new interdisciplinary minor in global migration studies

The minor focuses on examining and analyzing migrant populations.

By Vikanya Chea
Contributing Writer

The College of Liberal Arts added a new minor in global migration studies this fall after eight faculty members spent three years trying to bring it to campus.

Human development professor Heather Rae-Espinoza said the minor aims to help students better understand connections between global migrant populations and their impacts on different societies.

"The significance of the global migration studies program is people becoming increasingly aware of the world that we live in … understanding who's here and what those [people's] experiences are so we can reflect upon the kind of society we want to create," Kris Zentgraf, professor and chair of the sociology department, said.

According to Rae-Espinoza, five people have expressed interest in the minor, but no one has declared it yet.

Rae-Espinoza said that no new classes were created for the minor because professors selected current courses, which typically do not fill to capacity, for the requirements.

"There's always a class we'll be able to do, no matter what semester," Rae-Espinoza said. "And there's not a specific order, so we can even rearrange the order depending on the classes available."

Because the minor is an interdisciplinary program, classes span over several majors such as Africana studies, Italian, history and teacher education.

"The more you can understand the world around you, the better you can be at what you do."

-Kris Zentgraf, professor

Some classes for the minor also overlap with as many as five majors: human development, sociology, Asian and American studies, Chicano and Latino studies and international studies, according to a Cal State Long Beach press release.

"We're fine with overlap … I'm really happy to sit down with students, look at their major and figure out what classes they can transfer in," Rae-Espinoza said.

She also said that as part of the minor's requirements, students are expected to specialize in two different migrant populations after taking the initial migration and modernity class.

Some classes that can be taken for the minor include Asian and Pacific American film, and sociology of migration and immigration, according to Rae-Espinoza and Zentgraf.

Rae-Espinoza said that all migrants can't be grouped in the same category.

"Some people are looking for a better education, and some people are avoiding genocide," Rae-Espinoza said. "There are very different dynamics that shape migrant populations.

Zentgraf said that the new global migration minor can complement several majors, from sociology and history to healthcare and business.

"The more you can understand the world around you, the better you can be at what you do," Zentgraf said.

Other collaborators who helped to create the minor include sociology professors Neilan Barnes and Gary Hytrek, women's gender and sexuality studies professor Maythee Rojas and former CSULB international studies professor Julie M. Weise.

Todd Johnson | Daily 49er

Charging in

Sophomore creative writing major Trey Leslie, left, attempts to block a Frisbee pass from senior civil engineering major Caleb Shen during a Long Beach Ultimate practice on Monday.

OutList

Continued from Page 1

Julie Newmar," a movie about drag queens whose car breaks down during a cross-country road trip.

According to the LGBT Student Resource Center website, students signed up to appear on the OutList free of charge.

Faculty, staff and alumni, however, were asked to make a $5 donation when signing up. The donations went toward the cost of producing the banners and posters.

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Inclusive fitness looks to bring students together

The program is offering events for students with and without disabilities.

By Matthew Gross
Contributing Writer

Finding motivation to visit the gym each day isn't always a simple task. Getting there with a disability or injury can be even tougher.

For students using the inclusive fitness program at the Student Recreation and Wellness Center, however, overcoming both injury and disability has become a bit simpler.

The program puts an emphasis on those with disabilities but was constructed to bring students together, regardless of one's fitness level, through strength and inspiration, said Michael Freeman, aquatics coordinator at the SRWC.

Freeman said he believes inclusive fitness is as enlightening as it is symbolic.

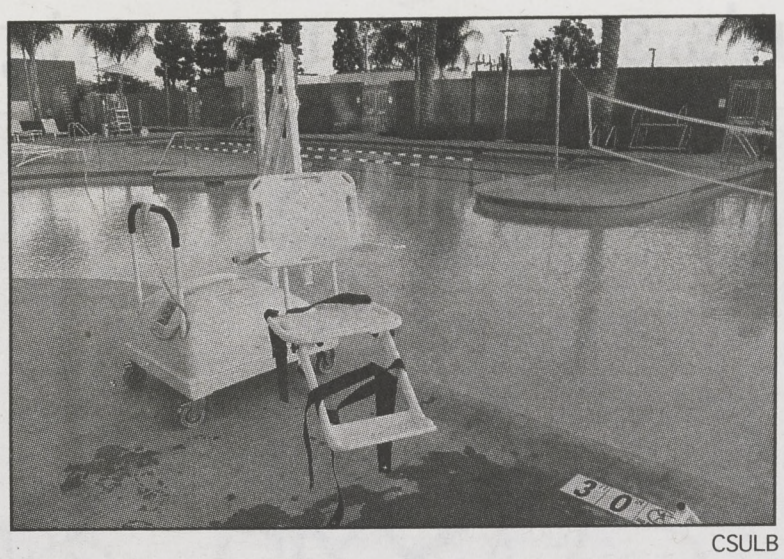
"The word 'inclusive' doesn't just mean disabled," Freeman said. "Inclusive is a bridge for all venues: body types, race, religion and culture."

The inclusive fitness program is designed so people with disabilities and their peers can compete on an even playing field, Freeman said, because the program sets out to eliminate the divide between students with and without disabilities.

Although it's mostly able-bodied individuals participating in the inclusive recreation events, the program seems to be serving its purpose, Freeman said.

"It's all camouflaged to me," Freeman continued. "I never can really tell who's who."

The inclusive recreation program offers activities such as sit-down volleyball and inner tube water polo, which are among the most popular. Both games neutralize the competitors' use of their legs, which brings a level playing field for competitors who may be unable to perform certain tasks.



CSULB

The inclusive fitness program includes a pool lift at the Student Recreation and Wellness Center to increase accessibility to students with disabilities.

For some students, the inclusive recreation program has also helped with rehabilitation.

"Staying active through my ACL rehabilitation was near impossible and downright frustrating," senior graphic arts major Kevin Wiener said. "Inner tube water polo let me stay competitively relevant as my leg rehabbed."

Other students without disabilities said participating in inclusive recreation events revealed to them what life with disabilities would be like.

"Although I don't have a disability, it was kind of enlightening to play Goal Ball while being blindfolded," senior communications major Charlie Forsch said. "Performing any task in the dark gives you a whole new way of seeing things."

Upcoming Inclusive Recreation Events

No Barriers Rock Climbing
Oct 11, 2 - 5 p.m.
@ the Rock Wall in the SRWC

Sensory Soccer
Oct 22, 3 p.m.
@ the Main Gym

Goal Ball
Nov. 20, 3 p.m.
@ the multi activity court gym

ROSE

Continued from Page 1

also established the Community Stabilization Program, which allows the organization to purchase bank-owned homes to renovate and then sell to low-income individuals, Griffith said.

Since 2010, RTLB has repaired and renovated nearly 300 homes, according to Griffith.

Rose's involvement in RTLB began in 2005, after she attended an event with CSULB students who had volunteered for National Make a Difference Day.

"It was just amazing to me that in one day, a group of people can go to a home, and from when we got there at 7:30 in the morning till when you left at four in the afternoon, you saw this whole transformation," she said.

"For me it comes very easily to balance my time, because I love both."

- Mary Anne Rose, director of graduate studies in the College of Education

Rose said the most rewarding thing about working with RTLB is seeing the difference someone can make in a person's life. The organization affects not only those living in dire conditions but also the community around them, she said.

According to Rose, the volunteers and their service are essential to transforming a home for someone in need. The challenge lies, however, in finding the right volunteers and matching them to the right home and the right work.

Griffith, who has worked with Rose throughout the past several years, said that Rose consistently exhibits the spirit of a volunteer.

"I have seen her push fully-loaded wheelbarrows, climb ladders to paint eaves, manage meetings … engage empathetically with homeowners, enthusiastically address large groups of volunteers at work sites, accept awards from other non-profits and even address the Long Beach City Council," Griffith said.

Rose also received the Staff Community Service Award earlier this year at The Pointe in the Walter Pyramid.

Last year more than 125 skilled workers and 600 unskilled workers volunteered to help RTLB complete at least 30 projects across the city, according to Griffith.

"You don't have to be the president of an organization to do service. There are little things you can do in your community," Rose said. "Doing little things all makes a difference."

Students can volunteer for National Make a Difference Day by signing up through Student Life and Development by Oct. 26. They can also volunteer for RTLB through the organization's website.

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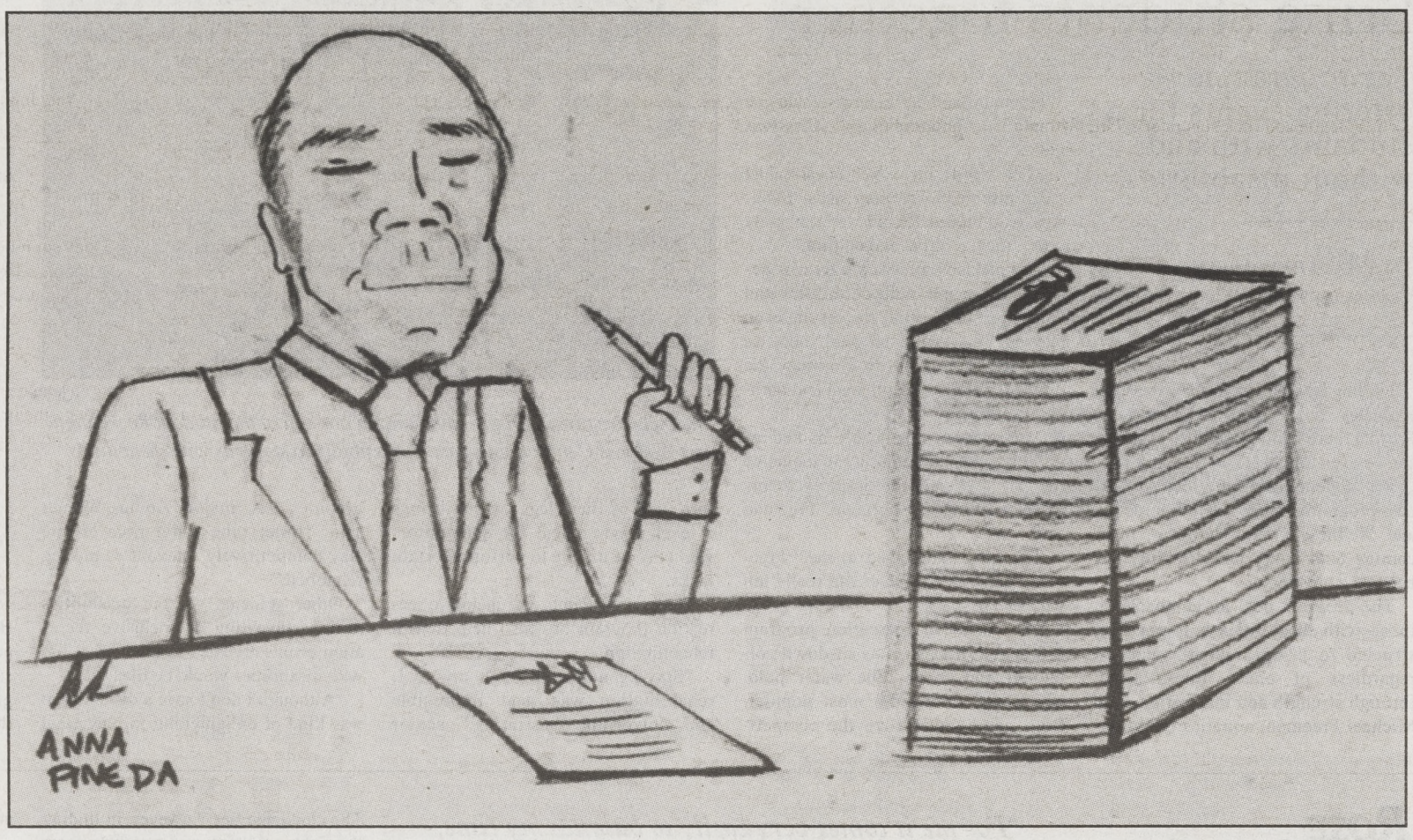
Gov. Brown's stance on immigration is admirable



OUR VIEW

Gov. Jerry Brown has been very active in the last few weeks.

Over the weekend, Brown signed nearly a dozen pieces of immigration legislation into law.

"While Washington waffles on immigration, California's forging ahead," Brown said on his website. "I'm not waiting."

Three bills signed by Brown will increase the rights of undocumented immigrants living in California.

Assembly Bill 1024 allows qualified applicants who are undocumented immigrants to become attorneys at law, according to Brown's website.

Immigrants whose employers retaliate against them because of their citizenship status are protected under Senate Bill 666, according to Brown's website.

U.S. citizens forced to move to another country because of one of their parent's deportation will also be exempted from out-of-state or non-resident tuition under Senate Bill 141, according to the bill's text.

We support Brown's signing these three bills into law and applaud him for his commitment to the undocumented immigrant community.

Giving undocumented immigrants and U.S. citizens whose parents have been deported more privileges is a step in the right direction.

We like that AB 1024 allows all people living in California to become attorneys. After all, why should one's citizenship status prevent that person from taking a test to become a lawyer?

If someone can pass the bar, that person is qualified to become a lawyer, regardless of their citizenship status.

With SB 666, we are happy to know that employers will not be allowed to retaliate against someone because of their citizenship status.

A dependable and hard-working employee should not be punished for his or her citizenship status.

SB 141 is also relevant as it prevents children whose parents have been deported from being treated unfairly.

U.S. citizens who were forced to live abroad due to difficult circumstances should not be penalized for their parent's transgressions.

While some may criticize Brown for his views on immigration issues in the State, his signing of the bills reveals to us his commitment to providing full equality to all Californians.

Although the bills will greatly benefit some in California, it's apparent that most undocumented immigrants won't feel the full effects of the new laws.

To ensure that full equality is achieved, we hope Gov. Brown will continue to fight on behalf of all immigrants.

Washington Redskins should be allowed to keep team name

SHANE NEWELL

Watch out Washington Redskins fans, it's that time of year again.

Every fall, it seems there is an ever-increasing group of Americans who want the name of Washington Redskins changed to a less-offensive term.

While some who dislike the Washington Redskins team name may be right in certain aspects of their arguments, their desire to officially change the name is both short-sighted and unwise.

Asking a team that has not practiced any form of discrimination to change its name is foolish.

Recent calls to change the team's name prompted President Barack Obama to weigh in on Saturday.

"If I were the owner of the team, and I knew that there was a name of my team — even if it had a storied history — that was offending a sizeable group of people, I'd think about changing it," Obama said, according to the Washington Post.

Obama's comments won support from Oneida Indian Nation representative Ray Halbritter.

"As the first sitting president to speak out against the Washington team name, President Obama's comments today are historic," he said to the Washington Post. "The use of such an offensive term has negative consequences for the Native American community when it comes to issues of self-identity and imagery."

While the term "redskin" may be offensive to some Americans, one should understand that the Washington Redskins organization does not promote intolerance or racism towards the Native American community.

It is not the desire of the Redskins to negatively affect the Native American community. To assume otherwise is unfair.

According to the Washington Post, the Redskins have already removed much of their controversial Native American antics in years past.

Mock rain dances and cheerleaders wearing lengthy black braids are no longer tolerated, according to the Washington Post.

Through the team's actions over the past few decades, opportunities to offend Native Americans have been dramatically reduced.

The Washington Post also said that nearly 90 percent of Native Americans did not express frustration regarding the Redskins name in a 2004 poll.

If the Redskins or any other team was promoting intolerance or prejudice, then a call for change would be necessary. But that's not what's happening here.

If the Washington Redskins name was to be changed, then other professional sports teams with Native American-based names should be changed too.

By saying goodbye to the Redskins, we should also bid adieu to the Cleveland Indians, Chicago Blackhawks and Atlanta Braves.

The other Native American names can also appear offensive, depending on who you ask.

When people think of the Redskins team, there's a good chance images of intense playoff games and dynamic players like quarterback Robert Griffin III come to mind.

The Redskins team name is not meant to be used in a derogatory manner. It is simply used as a collective name for a group of hard-working athletes.

At the end of the day, the Redskins name is just a name. Treat it as such.

Shane Newell is a junior journalism major and the opinions editor at the Daily 49er.

Daily 49er

Kristine McGowan
Editor in Chief
eicd49er@gmail.com
(562) 985-7998

Editorial Office
Phone (562) 985-8000
Fax (562) 985-7994
1250 Bellflower Blvd., SSPA 004B
Long Beach, CA
90840-4601

Display Advertising
Anton Berner
(562) 985-7410

Advertising Design
Mac LaBrosse
(562) 985-5736

Business Office
Phone (562) 985-8001
Fax (562) 985-1740
1250 Bellflower Blvd., SSPA 010B
Long Beach, CA
90840-4601

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Lennon's birthday should remind us of his musical contributions

SHANE NEWELL

Although it has been more than four decades since his untimely and tragic death, the legacy and life of John Lennon continue to live on.

Tomorrow marks what would have been the former Beatle and rock superstar's 73rd birthday.

On the eve of Oct. 9, we should recognize the musical contributions Lennon gave to the world.

Born to merchant seaman Alfred Lennon and mother Julia Lennon in Liverpool, England, young John grew up in what many considered a less-than-ideal childhood.

After losing his mother at age 17, John Lennon pushed on with The Quarrymen, a band that featured future Beatles Paul McCartney and George Harrison.

Following the band's temporary move to Hamburg, Germany, John Lennon and his band mates struck it big as The Beatles in 1962 with the single "Love Me Do."

The rest of their career was all but a brief point on rock music's timeline.

From 1963 to 1970, John Lennon and The Beatles released 13 studio albums including such famous ones as "Abbey Road" and "Revolver."

After the Beatles disbanded in 1970, Lennon continued with his solo career and released seven studio albums before his murder on Dec. 8, 1980.

Such hits as "Imagine" and "Stand By Me" cemented the solo Beatle as one of the greatest singer-songwriters of all-time.

While one can discuss John Lennon's musical contributions for ages, it is important to determine what made him so special

What features did John Lennon have that set him apart from nearly all other musicians in his lifetime?

Put simply, John Lennon was the first songwriter, along with fellow Beatle Paul McCartney, to masterfully blend rock melodies and insightful lyrics.

John Lennon possessed a wisdom that was beyond his age.

The songs he co-wrote and sang were much more sophisticated than other music from the same time period.

At 24, John Lennon sang on "In My Life" from the Beatles' folk-rock "Rubber Soul" album.

"Though I know I'll never lose affection for people and things that went before," John Lennon sang, "I know I'll often stop and think about them."

John Lennon's song-writing ability was further highlighted on "God," a song from his 1970 debut solo album.

"God is a concept by which we measure our pain," John Lennon sang. "I don't believe in Jesus, I don't believe in Beatles. I just believe in me."

Yes, John Lennon was a magnificent writer. More important than his lyrics, however, was his ability to touch other people's lives.

More famous songs like "All You Need Is Love" and "Help!" helped bring people together.

Songs written by John Lennon and McCartney soon became the soundtrack to millions of people's lives.

According to USA Today, The Beatles have sold approximately 600 million albums worldwide since 1962. John Lennon's solo records have also sold millions more.

Whether one is a fan of his work, one cannot deny the impact he made on many of our lives.

Shane Newell is a junior journalism major and the opinions editor at the Daily 49er.

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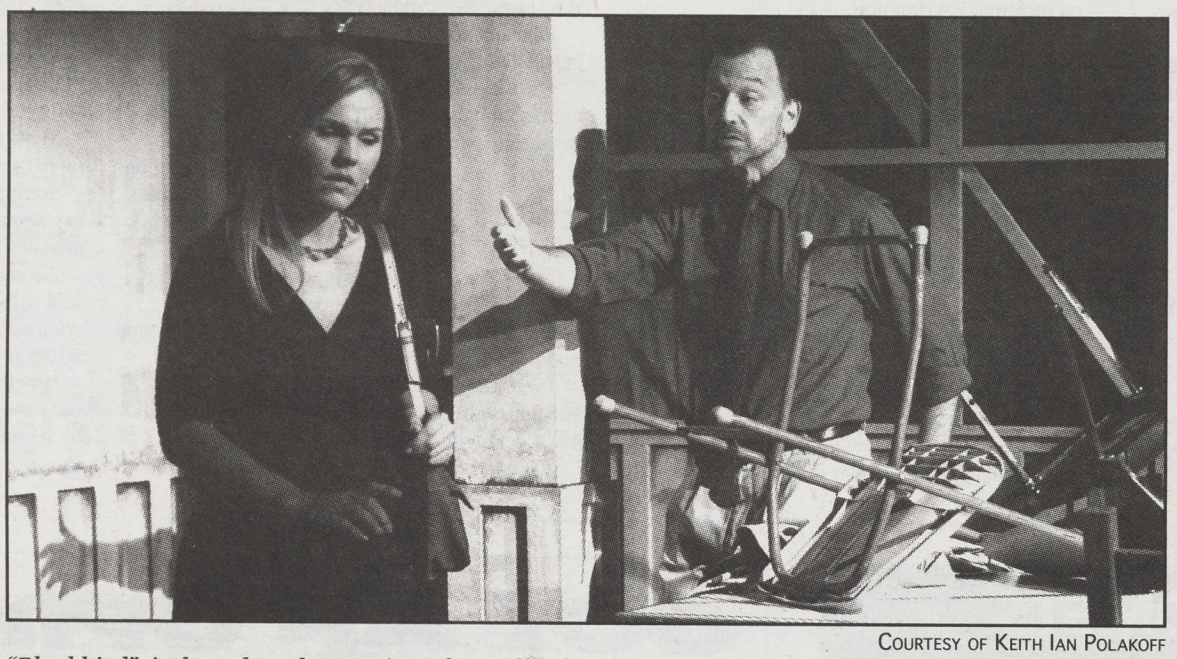
'Blackbird' at the Royal Theater

By Karen Murga
Contributing Writer



Courtesy of Keith Ian Polakoff

"Blackbird" is based on the reunion of sex offender Ray, right, and his victim, Una.

"Shock!"

The first line spoken in the play "Blackbird" sets the tone of the emotional drama that does just that — shocks the audience.

"Blackbird" was originally written by David Harrower, and the production at the Royal Theater on the Queen Mary is directed by Trevor Biship.

The play was inspired by the controversial case of Toby Studebaker, an American ex-marine, who, in 2003, ran away with a 12-year-old British schoolgirl whom he encountered through an online chatroom, according to the Cal Repertory website.

While "Blackbird" seems to be a story of betrayal, pain and regret, it can also be perceived as a love story, although an unconventional one.

The focal character of "Blackbird," Una, played by Cal State Long Beach theatre professor Anna Steers, unexpectedly comes across the man with whom she had a sordid affair 15 years before.

This man, Ray, played by Cal State Long Beach comparative literature professor Christopher Shaw, sexually abused Una when she was 12 years old. Now 60 years old, Ray has been released from prison and changed his name to Peter in order to try to live a normal life.

Steers and Shaw take the audience on an emotional ride with their realistic performance, evoking sighs from the crowd.

While Una is portrayed as nervous and questionable, Ray, portrayed as put together and regretless, constantly justifies his actions to himself throughout the play. He says that while in prison, he came to terms with what he did to Una.

"You made me into a ghost," Una says remorsefully during her heated exchange with Ray.

Una and Ray reunite in a grim, dirty office break room, where the entire play takes place. The play is pure tension between Ray and Una during the 90 minutes inside this room.

"Do you want to see the birthmark? You kissed it," Una says, heightening the tension even further.

The complex play leaves itself open to interpretation. Ray and Una both have contradicting stories and emotions. Una hates Ray for forever tainting her, but her deep-seeded love is revealed when she goes out of her way to visit him.

The play becomes more intense as it progresses. The audience doesn't know whether to expect violence or kissing, and the drama culminates into a final, unexpected plot twist.

"It is a really intense play of a topic rarely spoken about. It made me imagine myself in that situation, even though it is a really difficult experience," Priscila Villapando, a senior graphic design major who saw the play, said.

"Blackbird" is a production of the California Repertory Theatre Company and will show until October 12. Tickets cost $20.

Happy Hours

Week of Oct. 8

The Auld Dubliner
Weekdays
4 – 6 p.m.
71 South Pine Ave.
Come on down to an authentic Irish Pub, the Auld Dubliner, and have yourself premium Irish beers and whiskeys along with traditional signature dishes. The price is $3 for domestic bottled and beer wells, and $4 for domestic drafts.

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Next to Beachside College is Sushi Studio, where sushi and drinks are affordable. $6 special rolls, and $2 drinks and $7 pitchers are only some of the deals one can score there.

Students share a voice with CSULB Vines

Students use the Facebook page to celebrate and complain about CSULB life.

By Kirsten Farmer
Staff Writer

You may be bored in orchestra rehearsal, taking part in a dining hall dance mob, or maybe you're just one-way circling the parking structure with the other poor souls who decided that 8 a.m. was too early for class.

The point is, no matter what you're doing on campus, other students can relate and probably would like the chance to laugh with you rather than stress on their own.

The Cal State Long Beach Vines page is an interactive Facebook page that allows students to upload Instagram and Vine videos documenting their on-campus experiences.

The Vines page aims to be like the CSULB Confessions Facebook page but with a refreshed strategy.

Rather than encouraging anonymous over-sharing about interpersonal issues, the Vines page gives students a chance to declare themselves a part of the campus community in a way people may want to hear.

The creators of the page asked to remain unnamed, but they admit the page is the brainchild of a group of engineering students.

"We started this page in order to summarize some of our experiences," the CSULB Vines group said. "Time flies and we find that making this page and giving students an opportunity to post a video of their experiences is a great way of communication."

The page currently features several students' posts but has not yet fulfilled its potential, with less than 200 likes for a page to represent the whole scope of the campus experience.

While the creators said there isn't a goal number of followers, they do hope that more students will choose to contribute.

Students said they could benefit from sharing their own experiences because it would bridge the communication gap that is so common on a big campus. After all, full lecture halls don't encourage a sense of belonging.

"I think a bunch of students sharing our videos would not only be amusing but strengthen the community of our school," Shawn Dunn, a senior art education major, said.

Not to mention, Vines can be fairly hilarious.

"Vines are funny. I've seen a few before," Veronica Mata, an education major, said. "It's also a good way for everyone on campus to stay updated and connected in case they don't have time to read their email or the newspaper."

The connections between students could promote on- and off-campus unity through shared humor.

"Sometimes we all get frustrated, like [with] parking. But sometimes you just need to laugh at it," Katherine Rios, a communications major, said. "It's a light-hearted way to deal with the stresses of school with other students."

In a generation of social media, the CSULB Vines page suits the campus well, as students can easily post, tag and like their way into the collaborative community with other students.

"It's a way to portray a student's life at CSULB by sharing their experiences and thoughts through a Vine video," the creators of the page said. "In a sense, this can bring students closer, [while being] a great way to express themselves."

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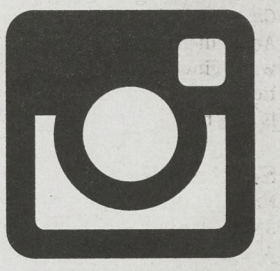

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STAYING AFLOAT

By Spencer Pirdy
Assistant Sports Editor

Playing Division I water polo is difficult. Imagine playing a sport in which defenders attempt to drown you, wherein even the act of catching one's breath requires that you maintain buoyancy by treading water. Swimming 4,000 yards a day in practice is common. There's also all of the grabbing, kicking and jabbing that goes on underwater — elements that are never seen by spectators. It's enough to send the most elite of athletes scattering elsewhere to look for a less burdensome sport.

Photos by Todd Johnson | Daily 49er

Redshirt freshman Nolyn Wild has played in three games and scored one goal in his first active year at Long Beach State.

NOLYN WILD sees these challenges and welcomes them with open arms. For Nolyn, a redshirt freshman on Long Beach State's men's water polo team, water polo is an escape in the most natural of senses, alleviating the stress of hardships that have been with him and his family throughout his life.

Nolyn grew up in Riverside, Calif., as the youngest of five children, with three brothers and a sister. He has always had an intimate relationship with his second-oldest brother Glyn, who has been in a wheelchair since Nolyn was three years old.

Glyn was paralyzed from the neck down at the age of 16 as the result of a car accident that killed the other passenger, a close friend of Glyn's. Because Nolyn was so young at the time, he can't remember seeing his brother out of a wheelchair.

"If there was something positive to take from it, it was that Nolyn never felt sorry for his older brother. Glyn was just Glyn," Nolyn's father, Durwyn Wild, said.

Nolyn naturally stepped into the role of caring for his older brother, and through the experience he learned more than most would at a young age.

"Growing up, being his younger brother, I kind of had to be his hands," Wild said. "It definitely helped me understand people with disabilities and the fact that some people are born with them and that some get them throughout their lives."

While this presented challenges for the whole Wild family, it never hindered their love for one another, and they moved forward.

Nolyn and his brother Gavyn Wild, who is the closest in age to Nolyn, began excelling in club swimming during their middle school years. One day a coach noticed the brothers' natural ability in the water and suggested to their father that they check out water polo.

Thus began the two youngest Wild brothers' journey into the world of water polo.

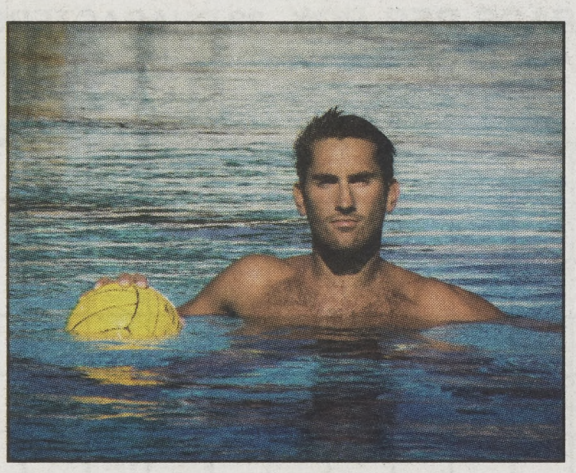
GAVYN BEGAN THRIVING as a goalie, and Nolyn was a utility player. He found his strength in one of the more challenging positions in defending at two meters, and it wasn't long before the brothers were highly-touted prospects in the water polo community.

Then, just as everything seemed to be going well for the Wilds, Nolyn's mother was diagnosed with stage IV breast cancer. Nolyn was in eighth grade at the time of the diagnosis, and the cancer spread so rapidly that by the time Nolyn entered his freshman year at Riverside Poly High School, his mother had passed away.

It was another blow to the Wild household. For Nolyn, his mother's death struck at a time when teens of that age need all the guidance and nurturing they can get.

"That was pretty dramatic; it didn't totally hit me at the time," Nolyn said, "but it was good to have all of my siblings there for support."

The tragedy forced Nolyn, who was already helping to care for his disabled older brother, to grow up even faster. The time presented decisions that would have life-altering implications. However, instead of burying himself in sorrow, Nolyn took his mother's passing and responded positively.



His perspective on life became more wholesome, and he saw the miniscule problems that most kids his age worried over to be insignificant in comparison to what truly mattered in life.

"I don't want to say that I'm more grown up or more mature, but the way that I look at things are just kind of different than how it goes in a regular family," Nolyn said.

However tragic the experience was, the Wild family saw no choice but to grow stronger and unite with one another to persevere through the challenging period.

It wasn't all easy to overcome, and at one point Nolyn contemplated quitting water polo. His father, Durwyn, was there to lend him advice and help guide him, telling him that no matter what, he'd support Nolyn.

"He's always been there for me and had my back," Nolyn said.

Nolyn chose to stick with the sport. In doing so he had a secret weapon of sorts at his side that pulled him through the rough time he was facing.

"Water polo was kind of my go-to," Wild said. "It was my way of getting some stress out, my mind off of everything else, swimming some laps, getting a good workout in and having a lot of fun."

Nolyn's father said he was happy with his son's decision.

"That was his outlet," Durwyn said. "It was critical and very therapeutic for him, just immersing himself in practice and games."

Because of his high-skill level, Nolyn was promoted to play on Riverside Poly's varsity squad as a freshman. This let him play with his brother Gavyn, who was a senior.

"That was honestly the most fun I've ever had playing water polo," Nolyn said. "My brother was just somebody I could really look up to … He had the experience as a [junior] national team member, and it was really fun having him as my goalie."

BOTH NOLYN AND GAVYN can now be seen playing in Division I water polo action, but this time they're on opposing sides. Gavyn is a senior goalie at Loyola Marymount, and Nolyn is in his first active year with the 49ers as a redshirt freshman, traveling with the team and maintaining a vital role in its success.

For the two Wild brothers, playing Division I water polo is a dream come true, but when the 'Niners and the Lions match up with one another, the brotherly love is temporarily set aside and the stakes get exceedingly higher.

"My coach knows the whole competitiveness behind our sibling rivalry," Wild said. "So, every chance that I get to score on my brother, he's all for it."

One person who's grinning from ear to ear every time his sons face each other is Durwyn. Durwyn spends his weekends ping-ponging from tournament to tournament to watch his two youngest sons.

"He's always been there and had my back; he's been through a lot more than I have," Nolyn said.

> *"I don't want to say I'm more grown up or mature, but the way that I look a things are just kind of different than how it goes in a regular family."*
>
> **- LBSU attacker Nolyn Wild**

To say that the Wild family has been through a lot would be an understatement. Even before Nolyn was born, the family had to endure tragedy. Durwyn's second daughter died in a freak drowning accident when she was an infant. She was the older sister Nolyn never met.

Even with all of the odds stacked against them, the Wilds have triumphed. Durwyn has put five children through college, kept his family strong and made a positive turn as the patriarch of his family. Some of his children have gone on to start families of their own.

Glyn also now has a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling and was recently hired at UC Riverside as a Disability Support Service counselor.

NOLYN IS STILL in his infancy with the 49ers, but he knows that the years to come will give him ample opportunity to help surge the 'Niners towards greatness and conquer his personal goals in the process. Nolyn will be looking to lead LBSU in the two-meter defense department, a position that requires the utmost strength, endurance and awareness.

"You're always moving, telling the other defenders to press or to go into zone," Nolyn said.

With this on his shoulders, Nolyn is looking forward to the years to come and being able to reach his highest level of playing yet. In doing so, he hopes to honor his mother in the process.

"When I try to achieve things, it makes me feel better when I think of how proud my mom would be, and it gives me the will to want to reach my goals," Nolyn said.

For Nolyn and many others, the sport of water polo never gets easier. But what will continue to help put those strenuous workouts and hard-fought games into perspective is the thought of what Nolyn, his family and many others affected by similar tragedies have overcome. Nolyn knows that even through tragedy, one can find triumph and move forward.